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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--3 JANUARY 1962

1. LAOS:

A. FOLLOWING PHOUMI'S REJECTION OF SOUVANNA'S PROPOSALS, SOUVANNA LEFT FOR PARIS. HE HAS SAID HE IS WILLING TO COME BACK IF PHOUMI CHANGES HIS ATTITUDE, BUT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS WILL HAPPEN UNLESS THE US EXERTS FULL PRESSURE OR STOPS AID COMPLETELY.

B. PRIOR TO HIS DECISION, PHOUMI INFORMED THE VIENTIANE CABINET OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT US AID MIGHT BE CUT OFF, BUT HIS REMARKS SUGGEST HE BELIEVES THE US IS BLUFFING. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] AN ATTEMPT TO GET THE FIGHTING STARTED AGAIN IS NOT UNLIKELY.

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C. AMBASSADOR BROWN SAW THE KING THIS MORNING, BUT WAS UNABLE TO GET ANYTHING HELPFUL OUT OF HIM.

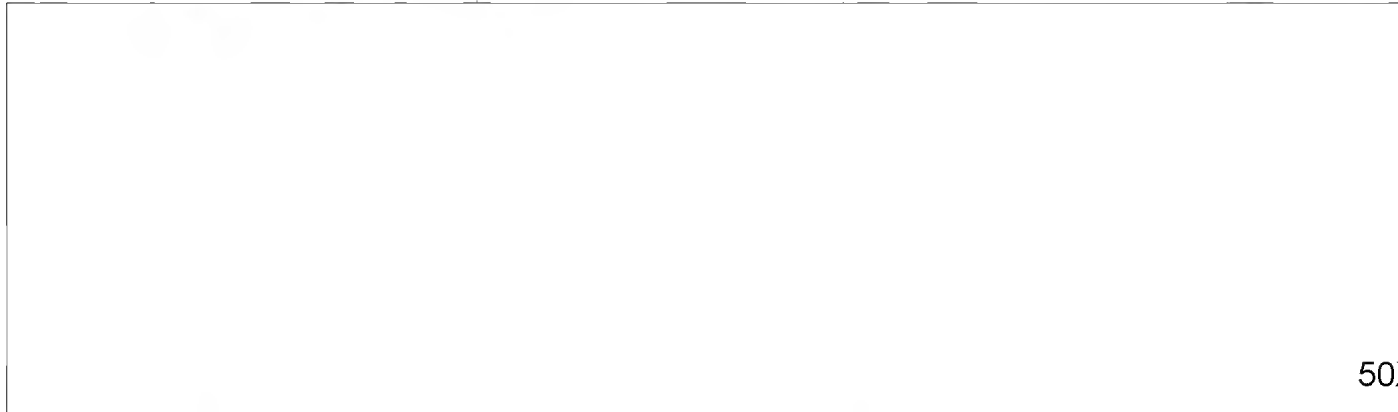
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2. THOMPSON-GROMYKO TALK:

THOMPSON SAYS "THERE WERE NO SURPRISES, NO GIVE, AND THE ONLY ITEM OF SIGNIFICANCE WAS THAT HE EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST IN AN INTERNATIONAL ACCESS AUTHORITY."

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3. OAS MEETING DEVELOPMENTS:



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B. EMBASSY QUITO BELIEVES THAT THE DANGER OF A VIOLENT LEFTIST REACTION WILL PREVENT ECUADOR FROM SUPPORTING STRONG ACTION AGAINST CUBA, AND THAT ECUADOR WILL END UP ABSTAINING.

C. IN A RADIO SPEECH LAST NIGHT FRONDIZI SAID THAT ARGENTINA AND THE US WOULD "PURSUE A COMMON PURPOSE" AT THE MEETING, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY HOW.

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4. COMMON MARKET DEADLOCK IN SECOND STAGE:

THE SIX HAVE FOUND A LEGAL DEVICE FOR CIRCUMVENTING THE YEAR-END DEADLINE ON AGREEMENT. BEFORE RECESSING SATURDAY THEY HAD MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS, AND THERE IS SOME CHANCE THE WEST GERMANS WILL GIVE IN ON THE REMAINING AGRICULTURAL QUESTIONS WHEN THE MEETING RESUMES TOMORROW.

5. DETERIORATING POLITICAL SITUATION IN BURMA:

ECONOMIC STAGNATION UNDER U NU'S MAL-ADMINISTRATION HAS GIVEN THE LEFTISTS AN OPPORTUNITY. U NU'S PARTY IS BADLY SPLIT, WITH THE LEFTIST FACTION GAINING STRENGTH. THE ARMY [REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED] IS INCREASINGLY PREOCCUPIED WITH DIS-50X1
AFFECTED ETHNIC MINORITIES.

6. NOTES:

A. EMBASSY LISBON BELIEVES THAT IN NEGOTIATING THE AZORES BASE AGREEMENT THIS YEAR, THE PORTUGUESE WILL INSIST, AS A MINIMUM, ON SOME ASSURANCE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT ACT TO HASTEN THE LIQUIDATION OF THE PORTUGUESE EMPIRE.

B. NO IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM THE CONGO. TWO SOVIET TRANSPORTS ARE ENROUTE WITH RED CROSS SUPPLIES, AND THERE IS SOME QUESTION WHETHER ADOULA WILL IN THIS CASE STILL STICK TO HIS REQUIREMENT THAT ALL FOREIGN AID BE CHanneled THROUGH THE UN.

C. PRESIDENT BETANCOURT APPEARS TO BE HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY WITH A RADICAL NATIONALIST FACTION WITHIN HIS OWN DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY. THE PROBLEM WILL PROBABLY COME TO A HEAD AT THE PARTY'S CONVENTION LATER THIS MONTH.

D. THE MOP-UP IN LEBANON CONTINUES. THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW RUMBLING ABOUT FOREIGN SUPPORT OF THE PLOTTERS, SPECIFICALLY ACCUSING PROPONENTS OF A "GREATER SYRIA."

E. THE AFRICAN STATES ARE DISCUSSING WHETHER TO BRING PRESSURE ON INDIA NOT TO RELEASE PORTUGUESE TROOPS CAPTURED IN GOA, LEST THEY BE USED IN ANGOLA.

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